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ROTATION OF FODDER CROPS IN RUMANIA

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The Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic issued a decree in May 1952 on the care, feeding, breeding, and health of animals and birds at state farms, collectives, and individual farms.

Agricultural scientists have classified some 15 types of Rumanian fodder plants with varied growing periods, ranging from early spring to late fall. For example, rye planted in fall will supply the earliest pasture at the end of April. When the rye is about to be exhausted, plants such as lucerne and sainfoin reach maturity. Thus, a continuation of pastures is assured. When the lucerne and sainfoin have been consumed, other crops are ready for use. Fodder-crop rotation is one of the best means for successfully increasing animal production.

Collectives and state farms must carefully choose fodder plants for rotation in order to satisfy the food requirements of animals. Further, the climatic and soil conditions must be taken into consideration. Plant economy and the biological nature of the plants must also be kept in mind. The best suited rotation crops are perennial grasses, such as lucerne, sainfoin, and sudan grass; pumpkins and watermelons; and root plants, such as napes, fodder beets, and fodder carrots. Rotated fodder crops must be very productive, cheap, and rich in vitamins and proteins. The grasses must also have the characteristic of growing rapidly after mowing or grazing.

The fodder crops most suitable for rotation in the steppe regions are lucerne, sainfoin, rush, sudan grass, sorghum, fodder corn, and fodder pumpkins. The most suitable rotation crops for presteppe regions are lucerne mixed with cheven and sainfoin, seareed, sudan grass, fodder corn, pumpkins, and napes. The most suitable rotation crops for moist regions are red clover, vetch, colza, and sowbread.

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The best grazing time for perennial grasses in Rumania is usually 15-20 days after shoots appear. Subsequently, the roots harden and become woody, the fodder loses its nutritive value, and the animals have difficulty in digesting the grasses. The more valuable crops, such as sudan grass, vetch, and others, are not all planted at the same time but at 20-25 days intervals. Vetch, for instance, can be grazed three times longer than when a single planting is made.

Table 1 (appended) shows the best time of the year for sowing various fodder plants in Rumania, and the earliest and the latest dates of pasturage for each type.

The Rumanian Institute for Economic Research recommends to hog raisers the types of plants listed in Table 2 (appended). The table also gives the most favorable dates for sowing each type of plant, its maturation dates, and method of use. The use of this table by hog raisers will reduce consumption of concentrated fodders during spring, summer, and fall, and lower the price of pork.

Fodder Plants General	Time of Sowing	Grazing Time	
		Earliest Date	Latest Date
Autumn rye and autumn vetch	Fall	25 - 30 Apr	10 - 15 May
Mixture of gramineous and leguminous peren- nial grass	Fall	5 - 10 May	5 Jun
Vetch and oats, lentils and oats, barley and ciमित्ठा	20 - 25 May	5 Jun	20 Jun
Second mowing of gramineous and legum- inous perennial grass	--	20 Jun	15 Jul
Early sudan grass and sorghum	25 - 30 Apr	20 Jun	15 Jul
Early corn	25 - 30 Apr	15 Jun	5 Jul
Sudan grass and sorghum, second planting	15 - 20 Apr	15 Jul	5 Aug
Corn, second planting	15 - 20 Apr	15 Jul	5 Aug
Second mowing of sudan grass and early sorghum	--	15 Jul	25 Aug
Yellow squash	30 Apr	15 Jul	20 Aug
Corn, third planting, after mowing of autumn rye	5 - 10 Jun	5 Aug	30 Aug
Second mowing of sudan grass of second planting	--	20 Aug	10 Sep

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<u>Fodder Plants</u> <u>General</u>	<u>Time of</u> <u>Sowing</u>	<u>Grazing Time</u>	
		<u>Earliest</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Latest</u> <u>Date</u>
Sorghum - third planting	5 - 10 Jun	5 Aug	30 Aug
Watermelons	30 Apr	20 Aug	1 Nov
Fodder squash	30 Apr	20 Aug	1 Nov

TABLE 2

<u>Fodder Plants</u> <u>for Hogs</u>	<u>Time of</u> <u>Sowing</u>	<u>Period</u> <u>of Use</u>	<u>Method</u> <u>of Use</u>
Jerusalem artichoke	Perennial	1 - 15 Apr	Grazing
Autumn rye or autumn vetch	1 - 15 Oct	15 - 30 Apr	Grazing
Lucerne or sainfoin	2 - 3 years	1 - 15 May	Grazing
Spring vetch	1 - 15 Mar	13 - 31 May	Mowing
Spring vetch with peas	25 Mar	1 - 15 Jun	Mowing
Peas	10 Apr	1 - 15 Jun	Mowing
Sudan grass	1 - 10 May	15 - 30 Jun	Grazing or mowing
Second-crop lucerne (sainfoin)	--	1 - 15 Jul	Grazing
Second-crop sudan grass	--	15 - 31 Jul	Grazing
Corn or sorghum	1 - 15 Apr	1 - 15 Aug	Mowing
Third-crop lucerne	--	15 - 30 Aug	Grazing
Third-crop sudan grass	--	20 - 30 Aug	Grazing and mowing
Fodder squash	1 - 10 May	1 - 30 Sep	Grazing or harvesting
Second-crop sorghum	--	20 - 30 Sep	Grazing or mowing
Fodder beets	15 Mar - 1 Apr	15 Sep - 31 Oct	Grazing or harvesting
Jerusalem artichoke	Perennial	1 - 31 Oct	Grazing

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